

United States Army Cavalry

WHEN the order came that the state troops were to be called into federal service and sent to the Mexican border the first thought of the transportation division, after securing railroad trains, was to provide horses for the new cavalry, artillery, signal, hospital and engineer troops and their supply trains, for there was no provision for a federal authority to provide them under peace conditions.

In the face of the drainage from this country of its stock for use in European campaigns, many have wondered how horses for the army were obtained. This exportation of animals up to January, 1916, deprived the country of more than 550,000 horses and mules, leaving only about 250,000 suitable for military use. Of these 60,000 have been drafted into the service, leaving a total of less than 300,000 available for our own military use not enough for our army 750,000 strong.

While there was no provision for purchasing the necessary animals before calling out the organized militia, there, fortunately, was no rule that forbade the division of transportation from making such preparation as lay in its power to secure an ample supply whenever an emergency might arise, and everything had been done to meet the situation, which, it had been foreseen, would come.

Accordingly, the division was not dismayed when it was directed to procure the required number of animals, which had been computed and found to be 62,000 horses and mules, and to the expenditure of something over \$8,000,000.

Lieut. Col. Chauncey B. Baker, U. S. A., of the Quartermasters Corps has told how this operation was conducted. When the order for mobilization of the National Guard came it fell upon this division to provide animals for the militia organization about to come into the federal service, for almost without exception, they were not already provided with such animals.

"First, let me say that few people realize that so many horses and mules were not available for military use, estimated to number about 140,000, when far the greatest body, the infantry, are foot soldiers."

But every cavalry organization re-



PACK MULE TRAIN ON MARCH. THE MULES FOLLOW THEIR LEADER.

quires a horse for each man and officer, besides a margin of 10 per cent for remounts; and in the new cavalry organizations it is estimated that there will be a total of about 1,450 mounted men. Besides this will be required draft horses or mules for each cavalry regiment.

An artillery regiment contains 1,200 officers and men and requires 1,400 horses to draw their field guns, ammunition and supply wagons and to furnish mounts for their officers. The field hospitals and ambulance corps, the signal corps and the engineers, require the remainder. Besides this, horses are needed for staff use and for general purposes, especially if it be an open campaign.

"The necessary authority had been

given to the department; and in pursuance of a plan adopted a year ago, as soon as the order to mobilize was made, the transportation division gave instructions to the quartermasters at the army remount stations and to the government purchasing agents to advertise for horses and mules.

"The general specifications for those animals for army use are very rigid and require for cavalry horses a weight not less than 950 pounds, for artillery horses 1,150 pounds and for draft horses 1,500 pounds; but instructions were given that in making these purchases

it would be optional with the government to waive this provision and accept a lighter weight.

"Bids came from various classes of people, regular stock dealers, stock raisers, farmers and horse owners generally. They offered numbers ranging from one lone mare to the whole 62,000. The prices were satisfactory, being about \$135 apiece.

"In detail the department contracted for 27,725 cavalry artillery 20,573 artillery horses; 14,900, mules and 3,540 pack mules.

"The department had no authority to contract to maintain a reserve of horses beyond a certain small margin for the regular army, but it had a few thousand animals besides those

purchased for the state troops, and they were being broken for army use in the remount stations in various parts of this country. These were available and were shipped at once to the auxiliary depots at El Paso and Fort Sam Houston.

"There were established auxiliary remount stations for the animals needing treatment either for some of the ailments which sometimes attack them when they are kept in large bodies or where they may be treated for any accident to limbs or body.

"By July 15 more than 8,000 horses and mules were drawing their daily forage at their new mobilization camps

at El Paso and Fort Sam Houston, in addition to those which before that date had been issued to the militia troops along the border.

"Before delivery and acceptance by the quartermasters militia mules and horses have to undergo an inspection more rigid even than that of the militia men who are willing to go with the boys to the border.

"The horses are green to the military business. Those awarded to cavalry are not acquainted with the bugle calls or with the evolutions of organizations in that branch of the service. None of the new cavalrymen can trust their mounts to carry them through the

mazes of cavalry formation, for the wisest horse is hardly as well versed in his duty as the recruit on his back.

"I want to digress for one moment to speak of the intelligence of the mule. It takes about fifty to make up a pack train. At night their burdens are removed and deposited along the line. In the morning, when it is time for them to go to work, each mule finds his own pack and stands by it until it is properly adjusted. If a green mule is added to the train, he is kicked out all along the line until he reaches his own; and he never makes the same mistake again.

"The horse country had been almost ruined by the war. It was found that in the

sixteen months ending January, 1916, 850,000 or more horses had been exported for use in the allied service, and that some 100,000 more were going in the western area of conflict.

"It is easy to see where the horses have come, but in event of a lively war in the south what is the answer to the question, where are the horses coming from for our army?"

"The department, up to the limit allowed it—about 6,000—buys young horses to maintain a reserve for remounts. There are three of these depots—Front Royal, Fort Reno and Fort Keosauqua. The horses are bought up, brought from farmers and stockraisers, are 'gentled' and broken for use in the service. When matured they are issued to the organizations of the army as they are needed, but this does not increase the annual number of colts.

"With a view to developing horses fit for army use, and, incidentally, suitable for general purposes, the departments of War and of Agriculture have been pursuing a joint plan to improve the breed, and thereby encourage the raising of horses. After consulting with the War Department, the Department of Agriculture purchased and distributed a considerable number of suitable stallions in horses owned by the War Department. The War Department has the first call on their get at a stipulated price, provided the animal is suitable for military purposes.

"But that a stockman may not be obliged to sell at too low a price a promising colt, he may, on payment to the government of a fee of \$25, have the privilege of retaining the horse.

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Workers in Public Health Service Who Have Made the Supreme Sacrifice

POLIOMYELITIS—which is the scientific name for infantile paralysis, that scourge which has swept over the eastern states during the past few months—may very probably be the next disease to claim as its victim a member of the public health service, the medical branch of the United States Treasury Department, which spends its time defending the nation from the ravages of all kinds of epidemics. Alvin, an assistant physician at the Municipal Hospital in Philadelphia, Pa., has lost his life in fighting that dread disease.

In the hygienic laboratory of the public health service in Washington there are nearly a dozen men who daily face death in battling with the unknown scourge, for "polio" still remains among the maladies concerning which science knows so little. The government experts are striving hard to learn the origin of the disease and to discover a cure for it.

In doing so they are shaking dice with death as surely as do soldiers in the trenches. At what moment the scourge may strike them down as a punishment for their persistence in that which may in some manner combat the disease in the future.

In the event that any one of the government's surgeons succumbs to infantile paralysis it is safe to say that he will be remembered as a hero, not only to those who know that his fate may add something to the small store of knowledge of the malady and that it may aid in some manner to combat the disease in the future.

The fight which is now being waged in Washington against poliomyelitis is analogous in many respects to that conducted only a short time ago against the deadly "cattle fever tick" of the western plains—a fight which cost the life of Dr. T. B. McClintic of the public health service, but which resulted in a greatly increased knowl-

edge of the disease and the manner in which it is spread.

Dr. McClintic, a man of thirty-five, for whom was predicted a most brilliant future, went to the Bitter Root health district, Montana, the authority "spotted fever," which was devastating that section in 1912; he returned to Washington, where he married and his marriage and died from the bites of the ticks.

More than half believing that he was immune to the malady, having been bitten by the fever tick several years before, he returned to the health district in Montana, where he was running in returning to the haunt of the tiny insect which carries the deadly ticks and raised the Bitter Root. But he had been ordered to continue his investigations of the strange disease and he went back to Montana without a murmur.

His heroic spirit and self-immolation were shown when, on returning to Washington, he was taken to a government hospital and told that he could not live beyond the night. Lifting his arms, which the deadly ticks had raised large welts with their tiny probes, he said:

"They don't seem to be going down. I hope they don't disappear before the boys (his colleagues) see them. They might be able to make something more out of them."

Three hours later he died, but not before the welts had been carefully examined by his brother officers and he had been assured that his death would be in all probability a great step to the knowledge of science concerning the disease.

Guayaquil, Ecuador, has long been one of the western most dangerous ports of a disease known to modern science as yellow fever, and there before the United States entered the war, it was clean out "the pest hole of the Pacific." The epidemic of 1907, which was a colored filth of all descriptions, and all the tropical and temperate fevers stalked down in the shade of the ills ventilated houses.

The death of several Americans who

had been working on the Quito and Guayaquil railway brought the State Department, in 1908, to a realization of the danger to the United States if the city and Ecuador were asked whether, if the United States sent a fleet of warships to the Gulf of Guayaquil, would they try to sanitize the city.

The reply, given rather half-heartedly, was that the United States would not do so. Accordingly, Dr. W. W. Wightman was sent to Ecuador and made a report on the sanitary condition of Guayaquil with a view to forcing the Ecuadorian government to clean up the place. Dr. Wightman, supposedly immune to yellow fever, went to the

port and sent back word to Washington that the sanitary conditions were almost beyond belief.

"The man here more or less immune to the diseases," he reported, "but it is almost certain death for a foreigner to remain here any length of time."

His death within six months after arriving in Guayaquil proved the correctness of his assertion, for, despite the numerous precautions which he took against the disease, he contracted yellow fever in his youth, he contracted the yellow scourge and died in the same manner as the others who put into effect any of the health regulations and improvements which he

had earnestly striven to obtain. Four years later the United States gunboat Yorktown, under Commander Bartlett, was forced to call at Guayaquil for the purpose of protecting American interests in Ecuador during a revolution. The Yorktown anchored far out in the harbor of Guayaquil, one of the finest on the Pacific coast—

and took every precaution against disease. But, in spite of this, Commander Bartlett and fourteen others were taken sick with the disease. Since this occurrence the city has been sanitized to a certain degree under the direction of other United States government officials, but it still remains one of the danger points of the Pacific coast.

Another port of call, larger and far better known than Guayaquil, which has claimed two officers of the public health service within the past four years, is Naples, Italy. Here it was that Dr. H. D. Gaddings fought an unending battle for sanitation and the strict enforcement of the immigration laws from 1909 until he returned to this country to die in 1913, while his immediate successor, Dr. J. M. Eager, succumbed to the insidious health conditions of the beautiful Italian port during the past summer.

Both of these men, in the opinion of their brother officers in the public health service, died in the service of their country just as surely as though they had been shot down in battle. The disease which they contracted was not as spectacular as the campaign against an invading force, but it is very nearly as deadly, as the record of the public health service will prove.

Yellow fever, the disease which carried off Dr. Wightman at Guayaquil, has been directly responsible for the deaths of six members of the public health service, indirectly for the deaths of two more.

The first martyr to the cause of science in the public health service, this cause was Dr. William A. Waldo, who went to Cairo, Ill., in 1878 to fight the epidemic, which had broken out in Mississippi from Louisiana and the Gulf. This was one of the worst epidemics with which the service had ever had to contend, and Waldo was on his feet night and day trying to prevent the spread of the disease.

Eight months later he succumbed to the sick and dying in Cairo broke down his health and the germs of yellow fever found him a ready victim, but until he had succeeded in checking the advance of the disease away and keeping the fever from spreading to the Key West, Fla., the outpost of the Florida keys and formerly one of the most unhealthy places in the southern coast, was the deathbed which claimed two other officers of the public

health service, Drs. Glazier and McAdam, who died there in 1880, and Dr. McAdam went to his death in 1885, two years after the great epidemic of yellow fever which had broken out in the death of Dr. John W. Branham.

Four years previously Dr. J. F. Greenock, ordered to fight to high yellow fever in Louisiana, had contracted the disease and had died at the service camp at Chandeleur Island, just before the outbreak of the three great "alternate-year epidemics" which swept the southern states in 1891, 1893 and 1895. Dr. Greenock, who had contracted typhoid and died; while Dr. W. W. Miller died from the same cause in Washington in 1910, after examining decayed animal matter for the presence of germs. He found them; but unfortunately, absorbed them into his system, and his death occurred only a few days later.

While the list of Uncle Sam's martyrs to the public health contains, for the most part, only the names of those who died as the direct result of fighting disease, which, as a general rule, contracted while on duty, there is at least one case of great heroism of another sort. This is the case of Dr. T. B. McClintic, who, while stationed on the coast of Alaska, was informed that a man was suffering with poliomyelitis in a nearby lighthouse. Despite the fact that a very heavy sea was running, Dr. Jenkins ordered his boat to be launched, and he assisted in rowing to the place where the patient was marooned.

In the case of the sick man, who showed that the only chance to save his life was to remove him at once to the chief of the supply division. Thus, the volunteer life crew, Dr. Jenkins insisted on attempting to return to the boat, and he was the only one who was not overthrown and every person in the little craft drowned.

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